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Sharps are defined as items capable of producing lacerations or puncture injuries to the skin.

- Needles
- Scalpels
- Glass (broken or unbroken)
- Glass slides
- Pipettes, broken vials

Sharps waste can be generated from either Biology and/or Chemistry Department. Never place sharps waste into trash receptacles, it must be segregated into designated waste stream. Plastic lined cardboard box is the proper container for sharps waste. The following are the proper procedures for disposal of all sharps.

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#### Biohazardous Waste

- ❖ In order for a sharp to be considered biohazardous it must be contaminated.
- ❖ If you find yourself with a contaminated sharp you will dispose of it as Biohazardous waste. follow the steps below:
  - Identify the container as Biohazardous Waste
  - Seal the container
  - Label the waste with the following:
    - Date
    - Lab room number
    - Phone number or phone extension
- ❖ Once you have labeled and sealed the waste container, contact EHS Program at [ehs@southtexascolleged.edu](mailto:ehs@southtexascolleged.edu) for proper disposal.

#### Non-Biohazardous Waste

- ❖ All sharps that are going to be disposed of must be cleaned and autoclaved to be considered non-biohazardous waste.
- ❖ Empty all chemicals to a suitable chemical waste container
- ❖ Wash of all chemicals before disposing and autoclave all sharps before boxing
- ❖ Once the sharps have been properly cleaned and disposed of, container must be labeled with the following:
  - Non-Biohazardous Waste
  - Date
  - Lab room number
  - Lab Phone Number
- ❖ Once you have labeled and sealed the container, it can be freely disposed of in the trash dumpster.
- ❖ Dispose of container once  $\frac{3}{4}$  full or 30 pounds.